

# S.S. ASTRO

Asashio Sogo Teachers' Room

ASTRO

1 NEGI BANNO



S.S. ASTRO

Asashio Sogo  
Teachers' Room

1

NEGI BANNO



US \$10.99  
CAN \$11.99  
UK £5.99

Ever wondered what goes on behind the closed doors of the teachers' lounge?

At Asashio High, the new school year brings new faces, both in the student body and on staff. The new crop of teachers are all former students, and it quickly becomes obvious they have yet to grow out of their hilariously juvenile ways. From romantic entanglements to otaku obsessions, these teachers just go to show that the fun doesn't have to end after high school!



OLDER TEEN  
OT  
LNSV

Yen Press



# S.S. ASTRO

NEGI BANNO

1

閑静帳

閑静帳



NAME ARAI, SETSUNA

KANJI 荒井 準名

荒井

JOB NURSING TEACHER

NOTE EVERYTHING IN MODERATION.



NAME MAEKI, IZUMI

KANJI 牧 和泉

牧

JOB PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

NOTE LET'S BE ADULTS.



NAME KARASUMA, KANAME

KANJI 烏丸 かなめ

烏丸

JOB FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER

NOTE SETTLE DOWN, PEOPLE.



NAME NAGUMO, YUKO

KANJI 南雲 有子

南雲

JOB JAPANESE TEACHER

NOTE THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE  
SMELLS LIKE SOY SAUCE.

From Carat, Nov. 2005



S.S. ASTRO

From Carat, Jan. 2006

From Carat, Mar. 2006



From Carat, May 2006

**S.S. ASTRO**  
Looking for Treasure? BOOM!

From Carat, Jul. 2006



S.S. ASTRO

Teacher's Room

From Carat, Sep. 2006



From Comic Market 70 Illustration Collection

SDRINK: MONJISAKI / ICE / BLUE NO.1



SDRINK: MANLY ROAST WOOD / MANLY ROAST SHUT UP AND EAT IT  
 SDRINK: NODDLES, YUMMOR / YACOS  
 SDRINK: SUPER FISHINGBOAT ACTRESS ONLY  
 BOXER: ALCOHOL IS ILLEGAL FOR MINORS TO CONSUME / "BEER MY FRIEND"

S.S. ASTRO

Another Seven Teachers' Room





Comic Market 70  
Limited Edition Bath Towel



From Carat, Nov. 2006

S.S. ASTRO

























SIGN: NURSE'S OFFICE











WRAPPER: NUNNY STICK

SFX: RUSTLE









## IZUMI MAKI

CLASS: HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER  
GENDER: FEMALE  
PERSONALITY: CLOSET PERVERT  
LEVEL: 3

E: JERSEY  
E: WHISTLE  
E: LOW-PRESSURE PILLOW  
E: UMAA BO

(SKIN) HEALTH POINTS: SQUISHY  
MENTAL POINTS: RELATIVELY NORMAL PERSON  
STRENGTH: CAN'T KILL A BEAR  
SPEED: THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW  
STAMINA: PLENTY  
INTELLIGENCE: GAVE UP  
LUCK: ENOUGH TO BE THE MAIN CHARACTER  
GUTS: HATES TO LOSE

Y: ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET THIS MONTH.



S.S. ASTRO

Asashio Sogo Teachers' Room

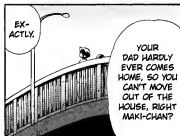




BOOK: PREDATOR AND PREY: THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE









LEFT: RYOMA OGATA / MOTOYUKI KANEKURA / KENJI KINOSHITA / T. T. MITSUNAGA  
 KINOSHITA / SHINJI KANEKURA / RYOMA OGATA / T. T. KANEKURA

LEFT: COGNET / MOTOYUKI KANEKURA / T. T. MITSUNAGA / RYOMA

ENVELOPE: ¥10,000



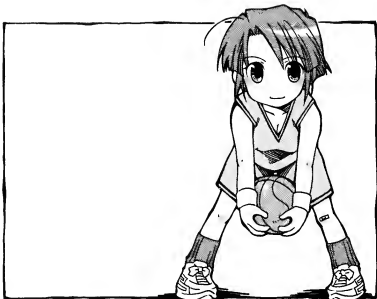




SFX: TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE







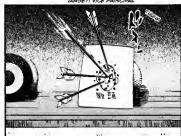






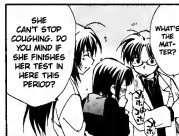
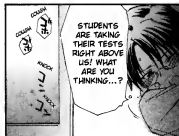


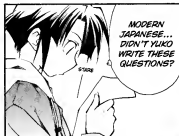


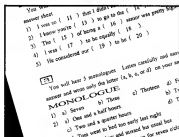
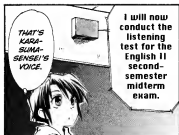
















SFX: SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER



SIGN: PONDPOO







## SETSUNA ARAI

CLASS: NURSING TEACHER  
GENDER: MAIDEN  
PERSONALITY: SNIPPY  
LEVEL: 5

E: WHITE COAT  
E: NDS, PLATINUM WHITE  
E: PSP, BLACK  
E: GLASSES

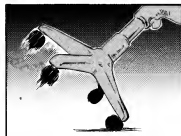
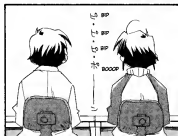
(SKIN) HEALTH POINTS: SMOOTH  
MENTAL POINTS: SEEMS TO BE A COMPATRIOT  
STRENGTH: LEAVE IT TO OTHERS  
SPEED: LAZY  
STAMINA: RATHER NOT USE IT  
INTELLIGENCE: GEEK  
LUCK: DO YOU EVER WIN SWEEPSTAKES?  
GUTS: STUBBORN

V: I'LL ONLY BUY THINGS NEW

















SPY: THREE PANEL THREE PANEL

























CAN I BEER MY FRIEND





CAN: NOT UNTIL AFTER WORK





SIGN: OPEN DOOR GENTLY





## YUKO NAGUMO

CLASS: LANGUAGE TEACHER

GENDER: FEMALE

PERSONALITY: GLUTTON

LEVEL: 9

E: HAKAMA

E: SHINMEIKEN JAPANESE DICTIONARY, 4TH ED.

E: MULTI-LEVEL BENTO

E: MATERIAL MEMO

(SKIN) HEALTH POINTS: PUFFY

MENTAL POINTS: THE FU SYMBOL

STRENGTH: GETS IT DONE WITH ATTITUDE

SPEED: EARLY PRINTING DISCOUNT

STAMINA: ALL ABOUT ENERGY DRINKS

INTELLIGENCE: MASTER OF IMAGINATION

LUCK: PLEASE TRY AGAIN

GUTS: GETS IT DONE

Y: NO ADDITIONAL INCOME



# S.S. ASTRO

Asashio Sogo Teachers' Room







FINALLY!  
A KINDRED  
SPIRIT!

OH,  
I CAN'T  
REMEMBER  
THEM,  
EITHER.

DON'T  
EVEN FEEL  
LIKE IT

ROLL  
3 11  
ROLL  
3 10

THANKS



UH-  
HUH...

I JUST  
CAN'T TIE  
THEIR FACES  
AND NAMES  
TOGETHER  
WHEN  
THERE ARE  
SO MANY IN  
ONE PLACE.

THIS IS  
GOOD



BUT I  
NEVER  
HAVE  
TROUBLE  
REMEM-  
BERING  
JOB NAMES  
FOR A  
VIDEO  
GAME.



I DON'T  
THINK YOU  
CAN GET  
ALL THE  
NAMES IN  
THIS ONE  
WITHOUT A  
TELEVISION  
GUIDE

TA  
TAKING  
AGAIN

I DID  
NOT  
KNOW  
I HAD  
ALL THE  
CRIMINAL  
ACTORS

DID  
YOU  
TEAR  
IT?



I DON'T  
HAVE A  
PROBLEM  
WITH IT.

ARE YOU  
GOOD AT  
MEMORIZ-  
ING NAMES,  
KARASUMA-  
SENSEI?



I NEED TO  
REMEMBER  
ALL THE NAMES  
IN MY CLASS

TELL ME  
HOW TO  
MEMORIZE  
THEM,  
THEN!



...IT WILL  
HELP YOU  
REMEMBER IF  
YOU CAN FIND  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT  
THEM THAT  
GRABS YOUR  
INTEREST...

WELL,  
IN THAT  
CASE...



DON'T  
ASK  
THAT SO  
BLUNTLY!

WHAT'S  
INTER-  
ESTING  
ABOUT  
THEM?





SATO BAKERY

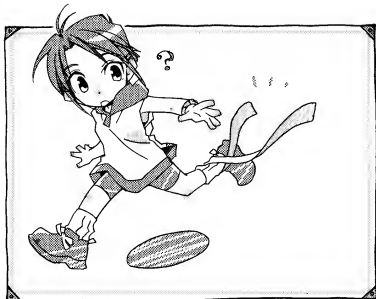


SPIN: TREMBLE TREMBLE TREMBLE









SUNNY FACULTY





















ROACHES  
ARE ALL  
AROUND  
ALL THE  
TIME

WHERE THE  
HELL DID IT  
COME FROM,  
THOUGHT?

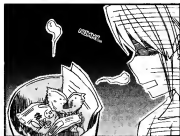


ACTUALLY,  
I FOUND  
IT QUITE  
ADOR-  
ABLE...

I'M  
SORRY  
FOR  
CAUSING  
SUCH AN  
EMBARR-  
ASSING  
SCENE...



YOU MUST'VE  
HAD SOME  
TERRIBLE  
EXPERIENCE  
WITH THEM...



WRAPPERS: NUMMY STICK



WHAT, LIKE A COCK-  
ROACH LAID EGGS  
IN THE CLASSROOM  
ONCE, AND NOBODY  
NOTICED, AND WHEN  
THEY FINALLY HATCHED,  
THERE WAS ABSOLUTE  
PANDEMONIUM IN THE  
FORM OF A COCKROACH  
EXPLOSION CREATING  
A RATIO OF TWENTY-  
THREE ROACHES TO  
EVERY FLOOR TILE?



H-HUH?  
WEIRD...

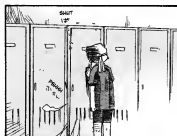
YOU'RE  
THE ONE  
WHO  
BROUGHT  
IT IN  
HERE.



I WAS JUST  
MAKING  
THAT UP.  
I DIDN'T  
REALIZE IT  
ACTUALLY  
HAPPENED.

I NEVER  
WANT  
TO GO  
THROUGH  
THAT  
AGAIN...









I'M  
HOME.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING  
AT THE  
DOOR?



THAT  
ENDED UP  
BEING SOME  
PRETTY  
HEAVY-DUTY  
CLEANING....



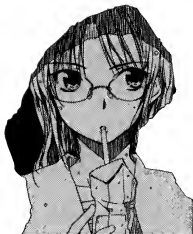
VERY  
TRUE.



THIS WILL BE  
YOUR DESK.  
HARD-SEAT



I HOPE  
IT'LL  
LAST  
THREE  
DAYS.















## KANAME KARASUMA

CLASS: FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER  
GENDER: YURI  
PERSONALITY: ROMANTIC  
LEVEL: 1

E: SKIRT SUIT  
E: DIGITAL CAMERA  
E: BLOODY HANDKERCHIEF  
E: GLASSES

(SKIN) HEALTH POINTS: SLIPPERY  
MENTAL POINTS: BUTT OF THE JOKE  
STRENGTH: WEAK ON THE FINISH  
SPEED: NEVER MISSES A PHOTO OP  
STAMINA: THERE'S NO BEATING AGE  
INTELLIGENCE: TRILINGUAL  
LUCK: HAPPINESS IN DEFEAT  
GUTS: ANYTHING FOR HER

X: IT'S ON ME!



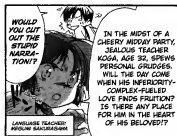


S.S. ASTRO

Asashio Sogo Teachers' Room















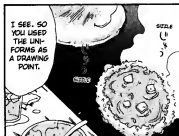
ALSO: DRAFT











LABEL: PAY DIRT







BOOK: CROSSING SUMMER

















WRAPPER: NUMMY STICK CLIP: FIFTH GRADUATING CLASS









ARAI-  
TENTEI  
EXPLAINS  
IT ALL!

EVERYONE  
WHO CALLED  
ME "NURSE,"  
STEP RIGHT UP.



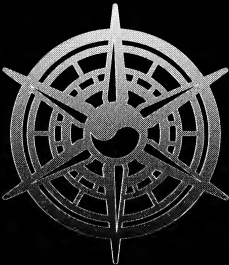
EXPLANATION ❀

THE TEACHER WHO WORKS IN THE SCHOOL INFIRMARY IS KNOWN AS A "NURSING TEACHER." THE TITLES OF "NURSE" OR "DOCTOR" THAT APPEAR IN THIS MANGA ARE TECHNICALLY INCORRECT. THERE IS NO ACTUAL NURSE POSITION IN SCHOOL, AND AN ACTUAL NURSE'S WORK IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. ALSO, THE NURSING TEACHER IS NOT ACTUALLY AN INSTRUCTOR, BUT A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL, AND THUS TECHNICALLY A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE.

WE WANT MORE!  
THAT'S WHY WE  
CAN GET VOL. 2!

IS THIS  
GOOD?  
TO BE A  
FOLLOW-UP  
VOLUME?





### The Asashio Integrated High School Symbol

This school badge is a representation of a telescope and compass. The far end of the horizon, as seen through the telescope finder in the middle, represents the unlimited future of the school's students, and the compass represents the guidance of the school's faculty, to keep the students from being lost upon entering the wide world of society. The six compass pointers symbolize the sixfold system of "information systems," "international business," "linguistic communication," "the fine arts," "society and business," and "natural science."

# S.S. ASTRO<sub>1</sub>

Asashio Sogo Teachers' Room 1

Special Thanks. Tokyo metro HS senior high school , OAs , OBs , Teachers  
Y. Ito K. Noguchi GLAY GLASSES  
my Family H. Kobayashi

2007. Feb. Negi Barrio Thank you for reading! ☺



# TRANSLATION NOTES

Throughout the series Izumi addresses herself with *ore*, the masculine form of “I,” rather than the unisex/formal *watashi* or the casual, feminine *atashi*. It’s indicative of how much of a tomboy she is.

While the yen-to-dollar value is constantly fluctuating, a quick conversion is ¥100 = \$1.

page 2

The red stamps in the upper right corner of these profiles are personalized signature stamps called *hanko*. Every Japanese adult has their own *hanko*, marked with the kanji of their name, which is used to authorize official documents instead of a written signature.

page 6-7

**Soba** is a type of traditional noodle made from buckwheat, which makes it darker and more grainy than ramen. It is often served in a square dish with a small cup of broth to dip the noodles into.

**Monjayaki** is a regional cousin of the famous *okonomiyaki*. These dishes are made by pouring batter onto a grill, much like pancakes, but with savory ingredients and meat or seafood. *Okonomiyaki* comes from western Japan around Osaka and Kyoto, while *monjayaki* is a specialty of eastern Japan near Tokyo. Based on the frequency that this appears in the manga, we can guess that the author is a big fan.

page 9

**Homeroom teacher:** The Japanese version of “homeroom” is similar to the American, but not quite the same. Unlike Western schools, in which students attend homeroom for roll call and announcements and then walk to their different teachers’ classrooms according to personal schedule, Japanese homerooms are where students spend most of the day, while it is the teachers who travel from class to class to teach their subjects. In addition, students are given more duties through homeroom, including school clean-up and planning for activities such as school fairs.



page 13

Along with the ultra-formal tone of voice and dress, Yuko-sensei's bowing while kneeling on top of the desk is quite out of place at school. In fact, it's unlikely that most Japanese would ever encounter this type of bowing in their lives outside of a tea ceremony, and those are rare enough in contemporary Japan.

page 14

**Asleep fist:** This is a parody of the Hong Kong kung-fu movie staple, the "drunken fist," in which the character gets drunk to use a special kind of kung-fu.

page 19

**Tentei:** This is not an actual Japanese suffix, it's just a babyish mispronunciation of *sensei*.

page 20

**Engel's coefficient:** The proportion of a household's total purchases which go toward buying food. Introduced in Engel's law, which states that as income rises, the proportion of money spent on food decreases.

page 23

**Bento:** A traditional Japanese boxed lunch consisting of white rice and several different toppings (known as *okazu*) in separate compartments. The multi-layered bento that Yuko-sensei is seen eating from is the equivalent of a multi-course meal and would be overkill for a packed lunch, not to mention impractical to lug around.

**Nummy Stick:** A parody ("Umaa Bo") of the real-life snack *Umai Bo*, or "Yummy Stick," which is a puffed corn snack that comes in many different flavors, including mentaiko and natto.

**Mentaiko:** Marinated pollock (a type of fish) eggs.

**Natto:** A traditional dish made with fermented soybeans. Very smelly and sticky.



page 25

This is a parody of RPG video game status screens, particularly *Dragon Quest*. The "closet pervert" personality is a feature from *Dragon Quest III*, and the "E" refers to items which the character is currently equipping.

page 54

**Bishoujo games:** A genre of computer games wherein the player must romance *bishoujo* ("pretty girls") in ways that can be either suitable for minors or not. What Setsuna is insinuating — and Yuko is trying to cover up — is the fact that Yuko enjoys playing yaoi games featuring gay men.

page 56

Many schools in Japan have a once-a-year field trip for the entire school. While Kyoto is a common destination for Tokyo area schools due to its many historic sights, the southern island of Okinawa, which is warm year-round and resembles Hawaii, is perhaps the most popular.

page 64

**Hanami**, or "flower viewing," is a traditional activity undertaken during the short period of the spring months when *sakura* (cherry blossom) trees are in flower. A typical practice is to set down blankets underneath the flowering trees and hold a party with food and sake.

Yuko's sneeze while the other teachers are talking about her is based on the Japanese belief that a sudden sneeze means someone is talking about you.

page 69

**The Fu symbol:** The "mental points" section of these character bios has a hidden meaning; it actually refers to their predilection for girly "otaku" fetishes, most specifically the yaoi or BL (boy's love) subculture. Imagining situations in which fictional male characters might be gay and attracted to each other is a common activity for what the Japanese call *fujoshi*, a pun on the word for "lady" that, when spelled with a different kanji, means "dirty woman." This self-mocking term, used by fans of yaoi/BL to describe themselves, refers to the "shameful" or "dirty" fantasies that they hold. The fu symbol is the kanji for "dirty," and is shown on Yuko's forehead in this story when she is imagining such connections between her male coworkers.

page 72

**108 characters:** This is a reference to the *Suikoden* videogame series. The *Suikoden* RPG games are based on a classic Chinese novel that features 108 characters known as the 108 Stars. One of the features of the *Suikoden* series is that the player can recruit and use all 108 of these characters in each game.

page 76

**Seme:** In yaoi material, there is a very common dynamic called *seme/uke*. Seme refers to the dominant member of a partnership, while uke refers to the submissive member.

**Doujinshi circle:** A *doujinshi* is a fan-published magazine of drawn and/or written material, the bread and butter of otaku and fujoshi subculture. They are often made by groups of people, known as "circles," which might be gathered together as students of the same college, fans of a particular manga/anime series or even a specific character pairing. A circle will typically put together a *dojinshi* for sale at events organized a few times a year, such as Comic Market.

page 87

**Initial R:** A joke combining the first letter of "roach" with the popular street racing manga/anime, *Initial D*.

page 95

**Yuri:** As yaoi refers to depictions of gay men, yuri is its counterpart featuring lesbian women.

page 104

**Ramune:** A well-known brand of lemon-lime flavored Japanese soft drink. The glass bottle version comes with a special dimple in the neck that holds a glass marble once the top has been popped. It is drunk most often in the summer months.

**GJ:** Online gaming or IM shorthand for "good job."

page 108

**The Me Who Leapt Through Time:** A play on a famous Japanese 1960s sci-fi short story, *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*. The story has been adapted to television and film multiple times, most recently in the 2006 animated film of the same name.



# S.S. ASTRO ①

**NEGI BANNO**

**Translation: Stephen Paul**

**Lettering: Alexis Eckerman**

KYOKAN ASTRO Vol. 1 © 2007 Negi Banno. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 2007 by HOUBUNSHA CO., LTD. English translation rights in the United States, Canada, and United Kingdom arranged with HOUBUNSHA CO., LTD. through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo.

English translation copyright © 2008 by Hachette Book Group USA, Inc.

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, no part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

The characters and events in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, living or dead, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

Yen Press  
Hachette Book Group USA  
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Visit our Web sites at [www.HachetteBookGroupUSA.com](http://www.HachetteBookGroupUSA.com) and [www.YenPress.com](http://www.YenPress.com).

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group USA, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group USA, Inc.

First Edition: August 2008

ISBN-10: 0-7595-2898-5  
ISBN-13: 978-0-7595-2898-7

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

BVG

Printed in the United States of America